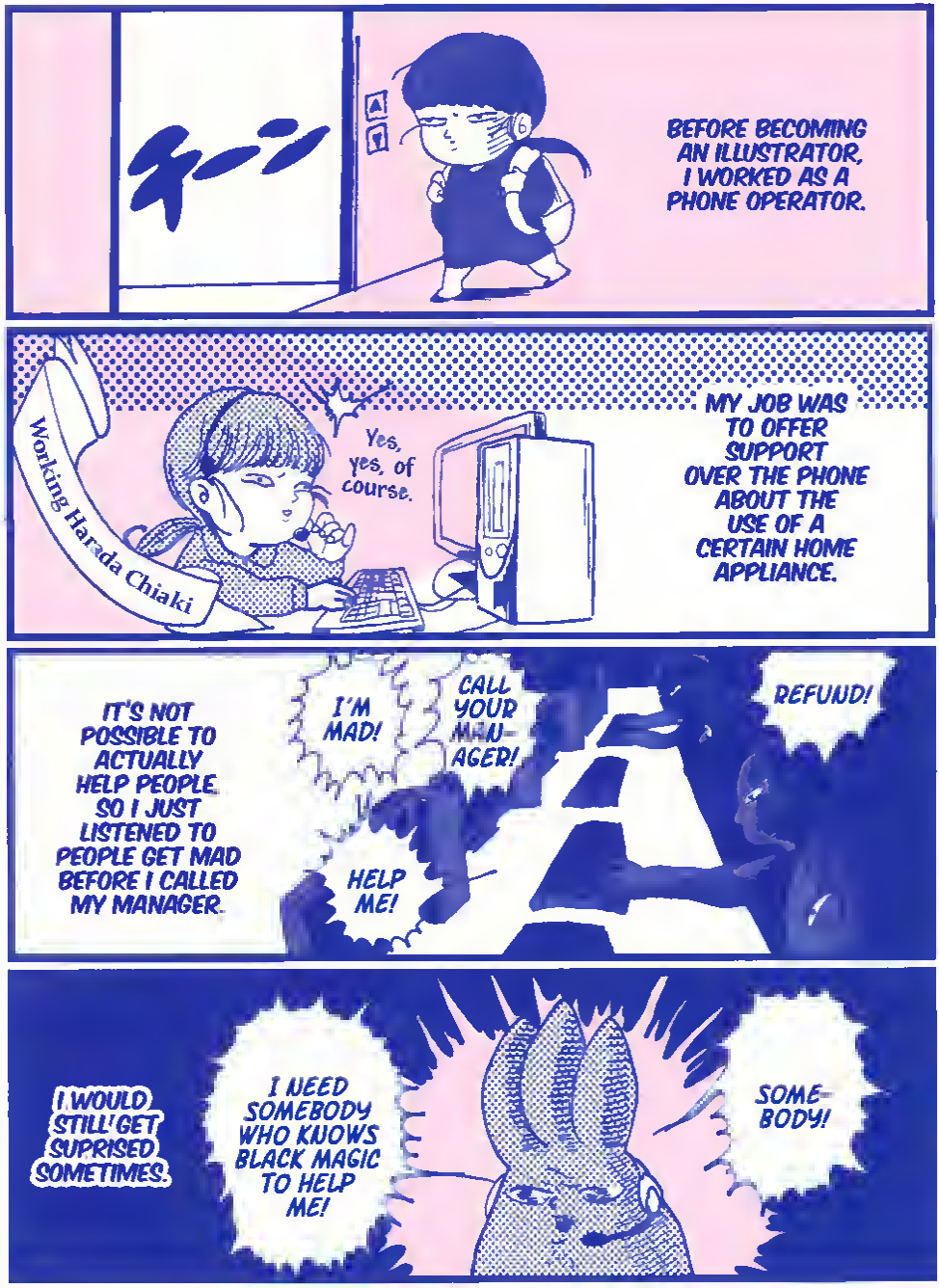
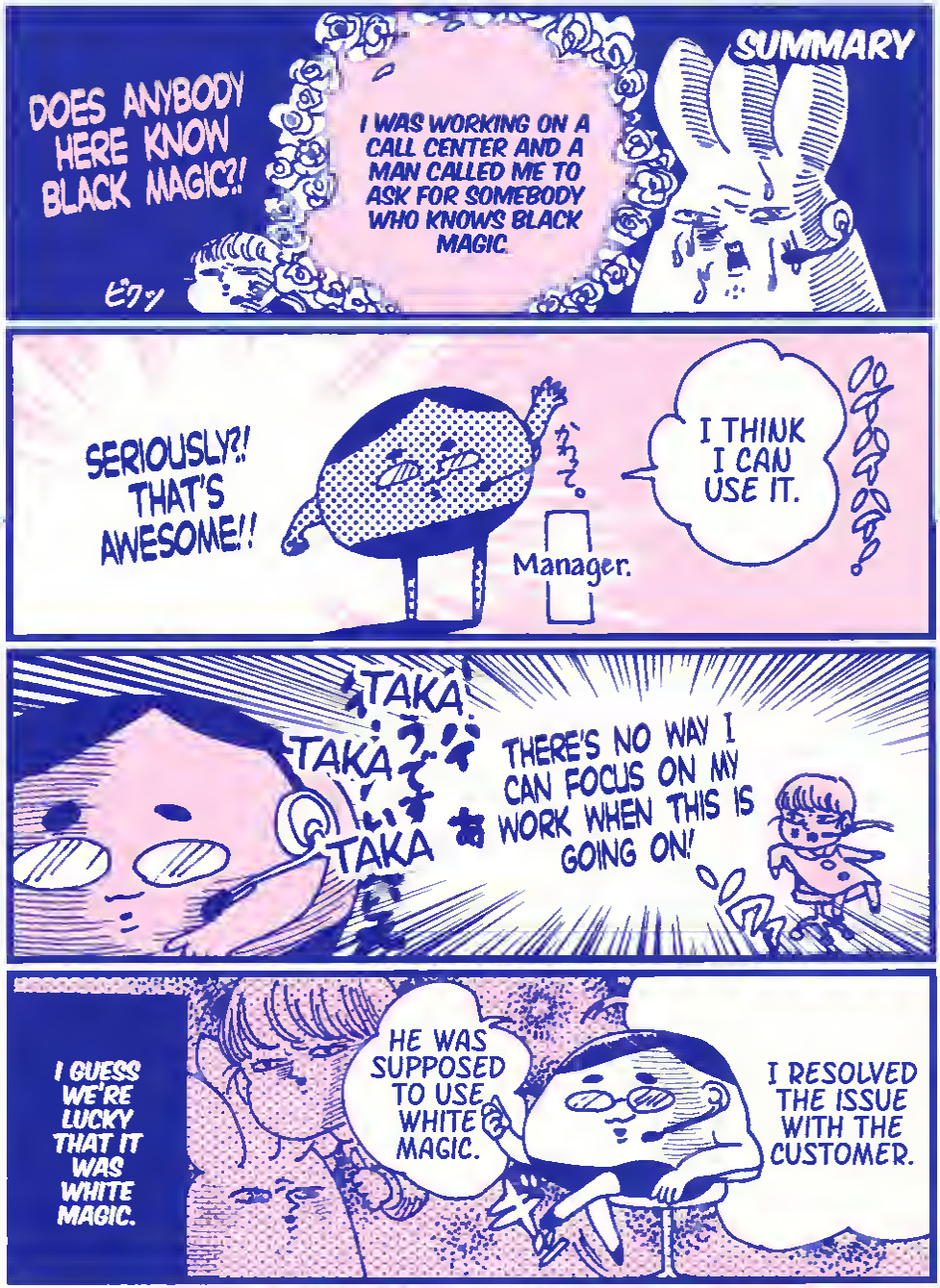
Part 2
When I Was Younger

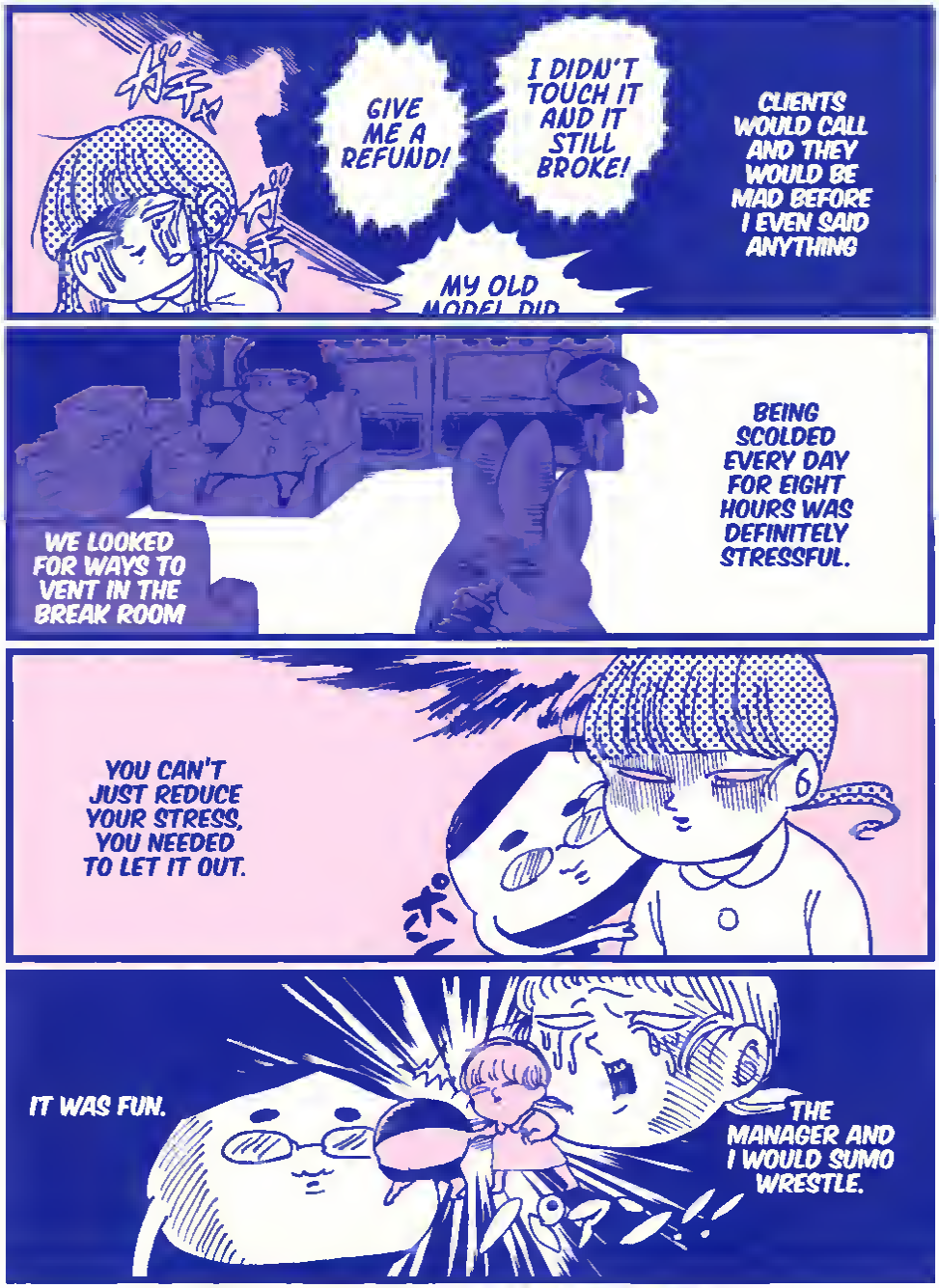
BLACK MAGIC


BEFORE BECOMING AN ILLUSTRATOR, I WORKED AS A PHONE OPERATOR.
Working Harada Chiaki
Yes, yes, of course.
MY JOB WAS TO OFFER SUPPORT OVER THE PHONE ABOUT THE USE OF A CERTAIN HOME APPLIANCE.
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO ACTUALLY HELP PEOPLE SO I JUST LISTENED TO PEOPLE GET MAD BEFORE I CALLED MY MANAGER.
I'M MAD!
CALL YOUR MANAGER!
REFUND!
HELP ME!
I WOULD STILL GET SURPRISED SOMETIMES.
I NEED SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS BLACK MAGIC TO HELP ME!
SOMEBODY!

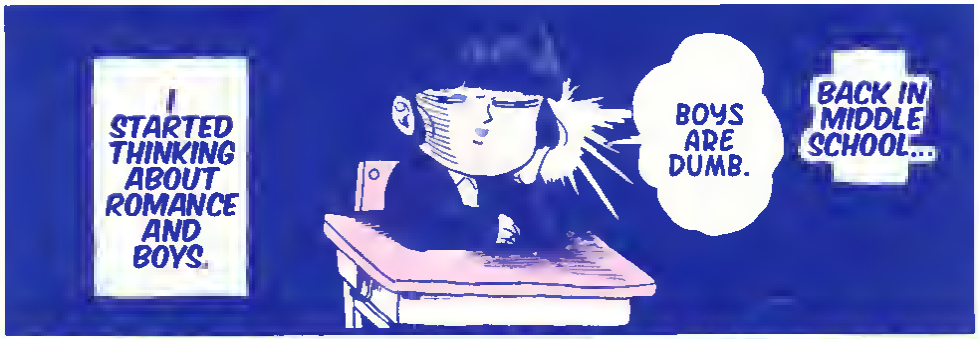
BLACK MAGIC 2

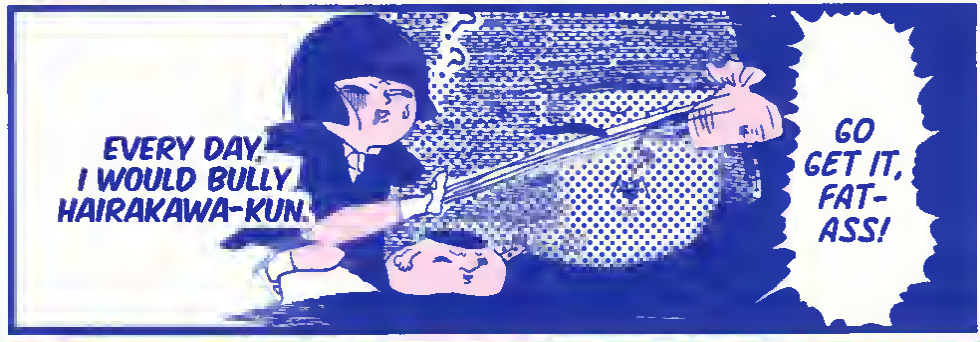

DOES ANYBODY HERE KNOW BLACK MAGIC?!
ピクッ
I WAS WORKING ON A CALL CENTER AND A MAN CALLED ME TO ASK FOR SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS BLACK MAGIC.
SUMMARY
SERIOUSLY?! THAT'S AWESOME!!
Manager.
I THINK I CAN USE IT.
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN FOCUS ON MY WORK WHEN THIS IS GOING ON!
I GUESS WE'RE LUCKY THAT IT WAS WHITE MAGIC.
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO USE WHITE MAGIC.
I RESOLVED THE ISSUE WITH THE CUSTOMER.

REFRESH

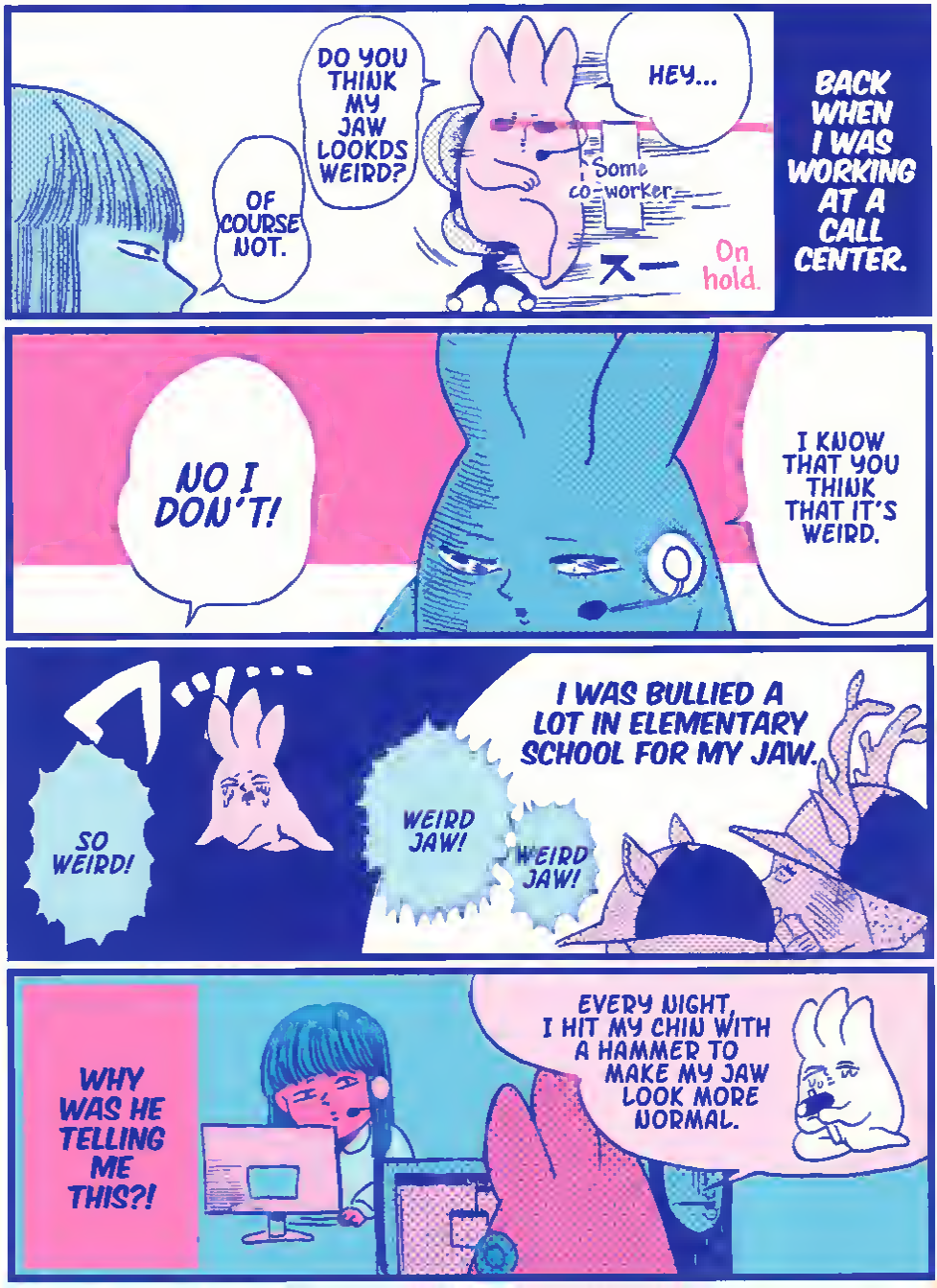

GIVE ME A REFUND!
I DIDN'T TOUCH IT AND IT STILL BROKE!
CLIENTS WOULD CALL AND THEY WOULD BE MAD BEFORE I EVEN SAID ANYTHING
MY OLD
WE LOOKED FOR WAYS TO VENT IN THE BREAK ROOM
BEING SCOLDED EVERY DAY FOR EIGHT HOURS WAS DEFINITELY STRESSFUL.
YOU CAN'T JUST REDUCE YOUR STRESS, YOU NEEDED TO LET IT OUT.
IT WAS FUN.
THE MANAGER AND I WOULD SUMO WRESTLE.

LIGHT REMEMBRANCE

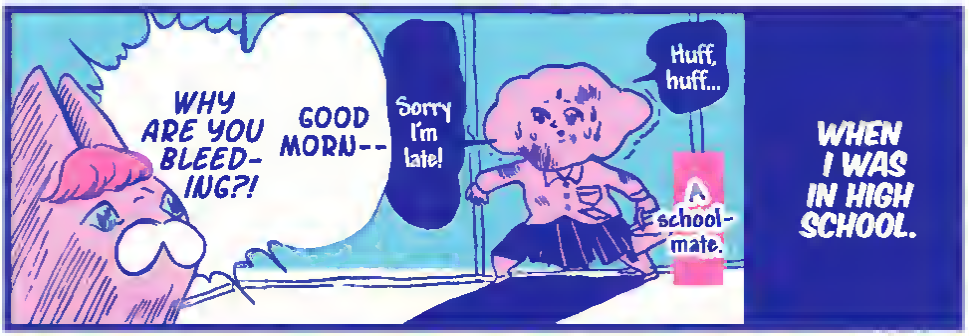


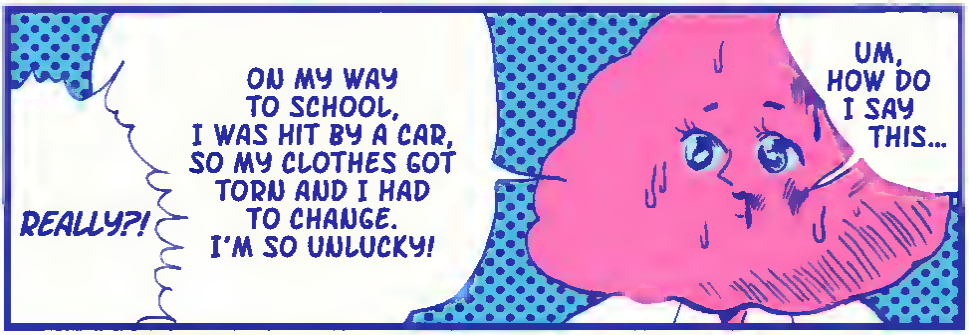


WHILE THE CALL IS ON HOLD

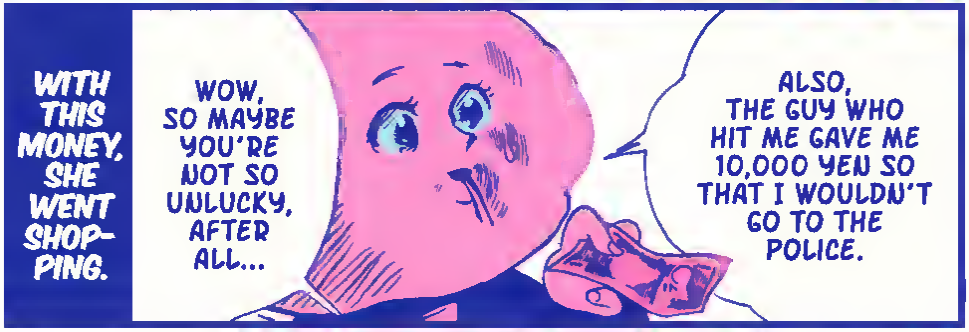

BACK WHEN I WAS WORKING AT A CALL CENTER.
HEY...
Some co-worker
On hold.
DO YOU THINK MY JAW LOOKDS WEIRD?
OF COURSE NOT.
I KNOW THAT YOU THINK THAT IT'S WEIRD.
NO I DON'T!
I WAS BULLIED A LOT IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR MY JAW.
WEIRD JAW!
WEIRD JAW!
SO WEIRD!
EVERY NIGHT, I HIT MY CHIN WITH A HAMMER TO MAKE MY JAW LOOK MORE NORMAL.
WHY WAS HE TELLING ME THIS?!

BEING LUCKY


WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL.
Huff, huff...
Sorry I'm late!
A school-mate.
GOOD MORN--
WHY ARE YOU BLEED-ING?!


UM, HOW DO I SAY THIS...
ON MY WAY TO SCHOOL, I WAS HIT BY A CAR, SO MY CLOTHES GOT TORN AND I HAD TO CHANGE. I'M SO UNLUCKY!
REALLY?!

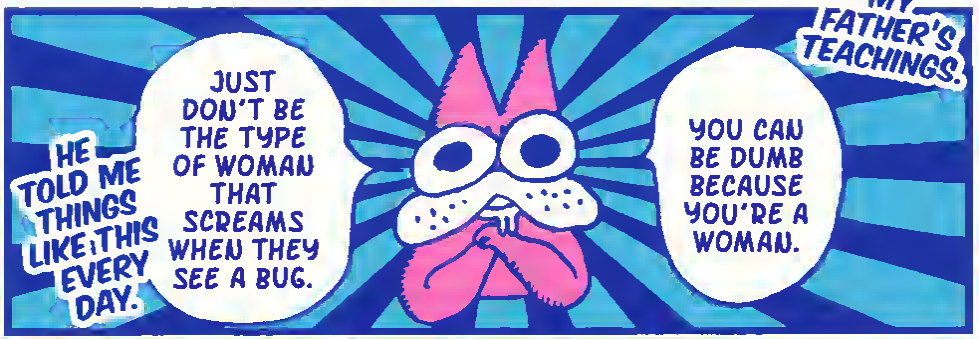
ARE YOU OKAY? IS ANYTHING BROKEN?
I'M FINE, THANK YOU.

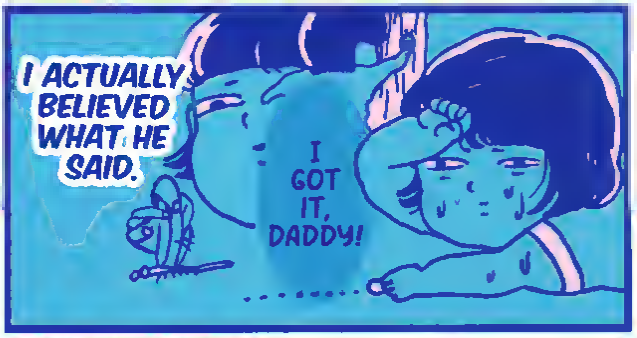

WITH THIS MONEY, SHE WENT SHOP-PING.
WOW, SO MAYBE YOU'RE NOT SO UNLUCKY, AFTER ALL...
ALSO, THE GUY WHO HIT ME GAVE ME 10,000 YEN SO THAT I WOULDN'T GO TO THE POLICE.

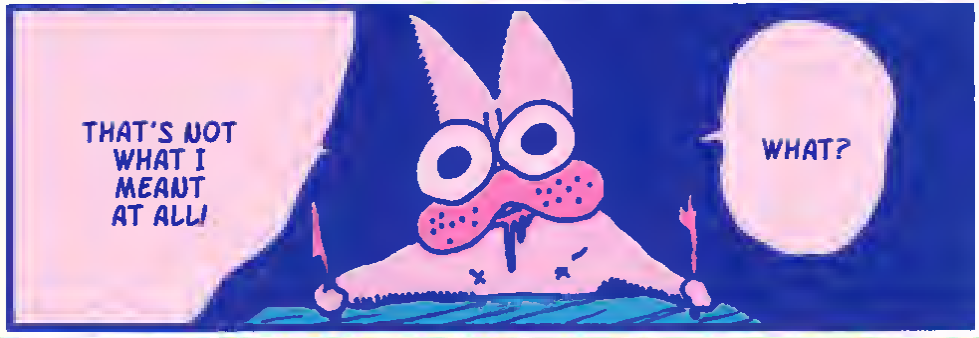
MY FATHER'S PROGRESS

I'M STARTING MY OWN COMPANY!
I QUIT MY JOB!
WHEN I WAS 10 YEARS OLD...
DON'T COME LOOKING FOR ME!
I'M GOING TO BE RICH! I'M LEAVING THIS FAMILY!
WHEN I WAS 14 YEARS OLD...
I THINK I GOT A DIVORCE OR SOMETHING.
THE BUSINESS FAILED, AND I'M BANKRUPT. NICE TO SEE YOU.
WHEN I WAS 18 YEARS OLD...
CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT HIM IN FOUR YEARS.
MY DAD FOUND A WOMAN A LOT YOUNGER THAN HIM.
WHEN I WAS 22 YEARS OLD...

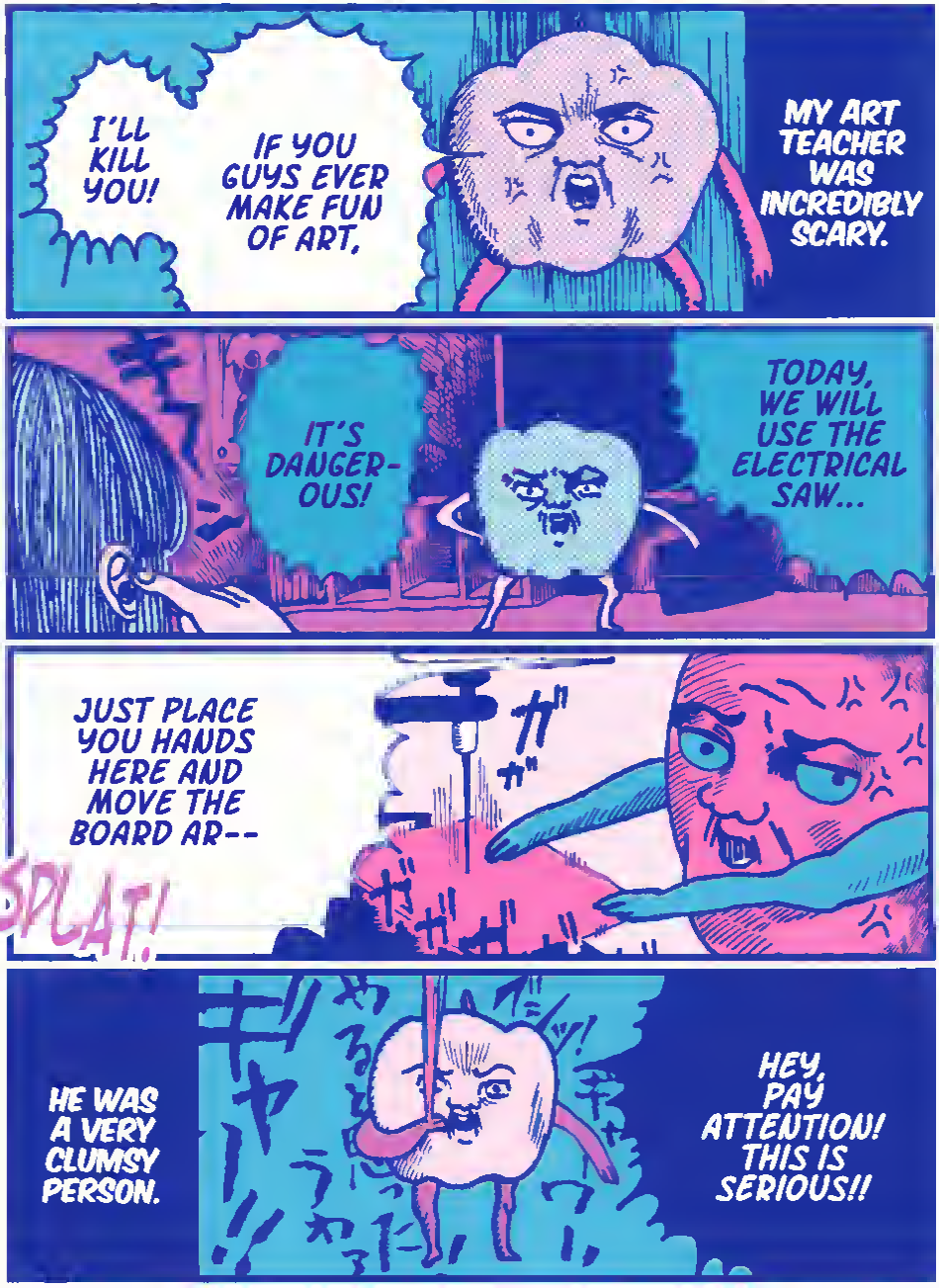
PARENTING FAIL


HE TOLD ME THINGS LIKE THIS EVERY DAY.
JUST DON'T BE THE TYPE OF WOMAN THAT SCREAMS WHEN THEY SEE A BUG.
MY FATHER'S TEACHINGS.
YOU CAN BE DUMB BECAUSE YOU'RE A WOMAN.

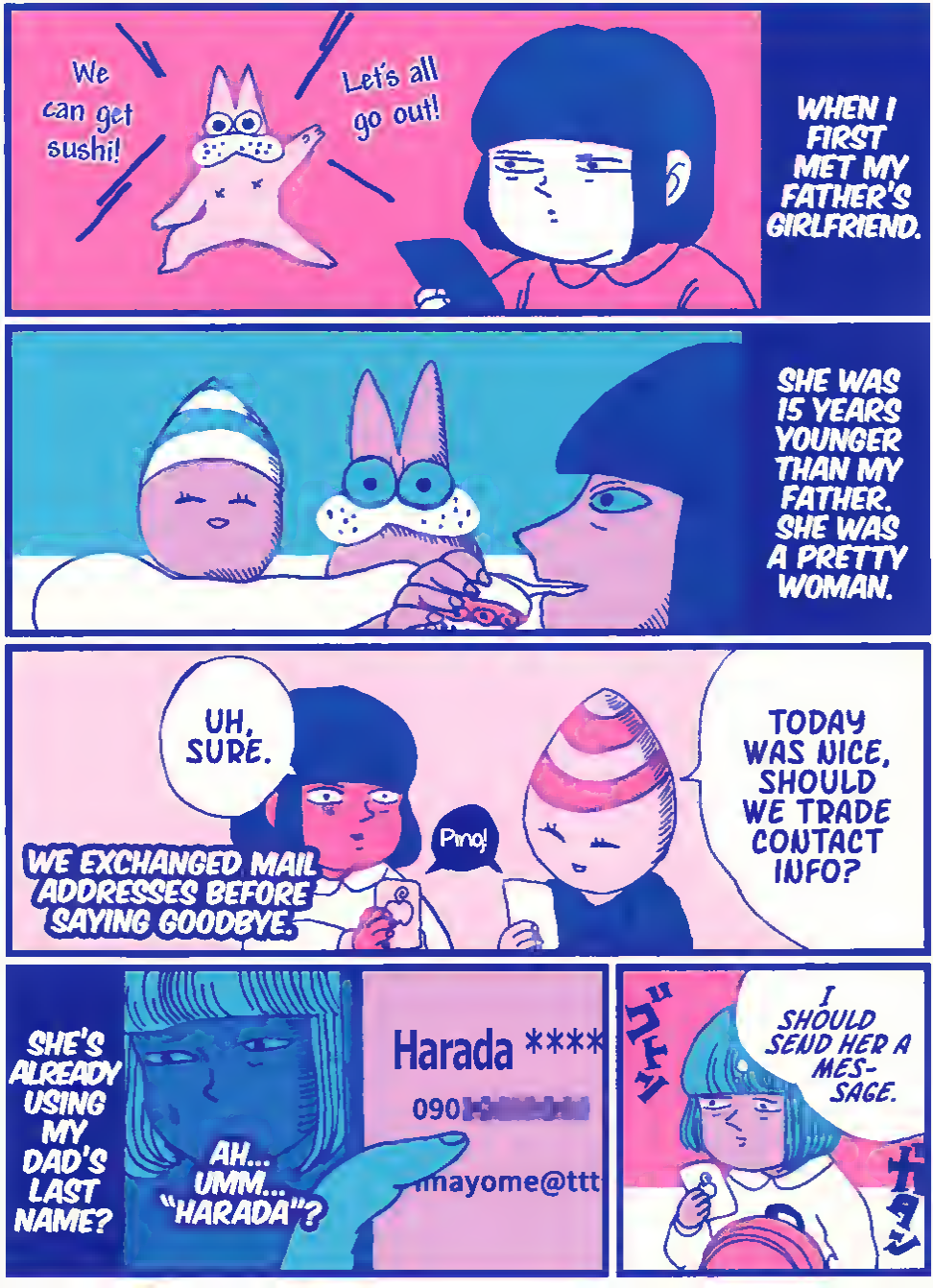




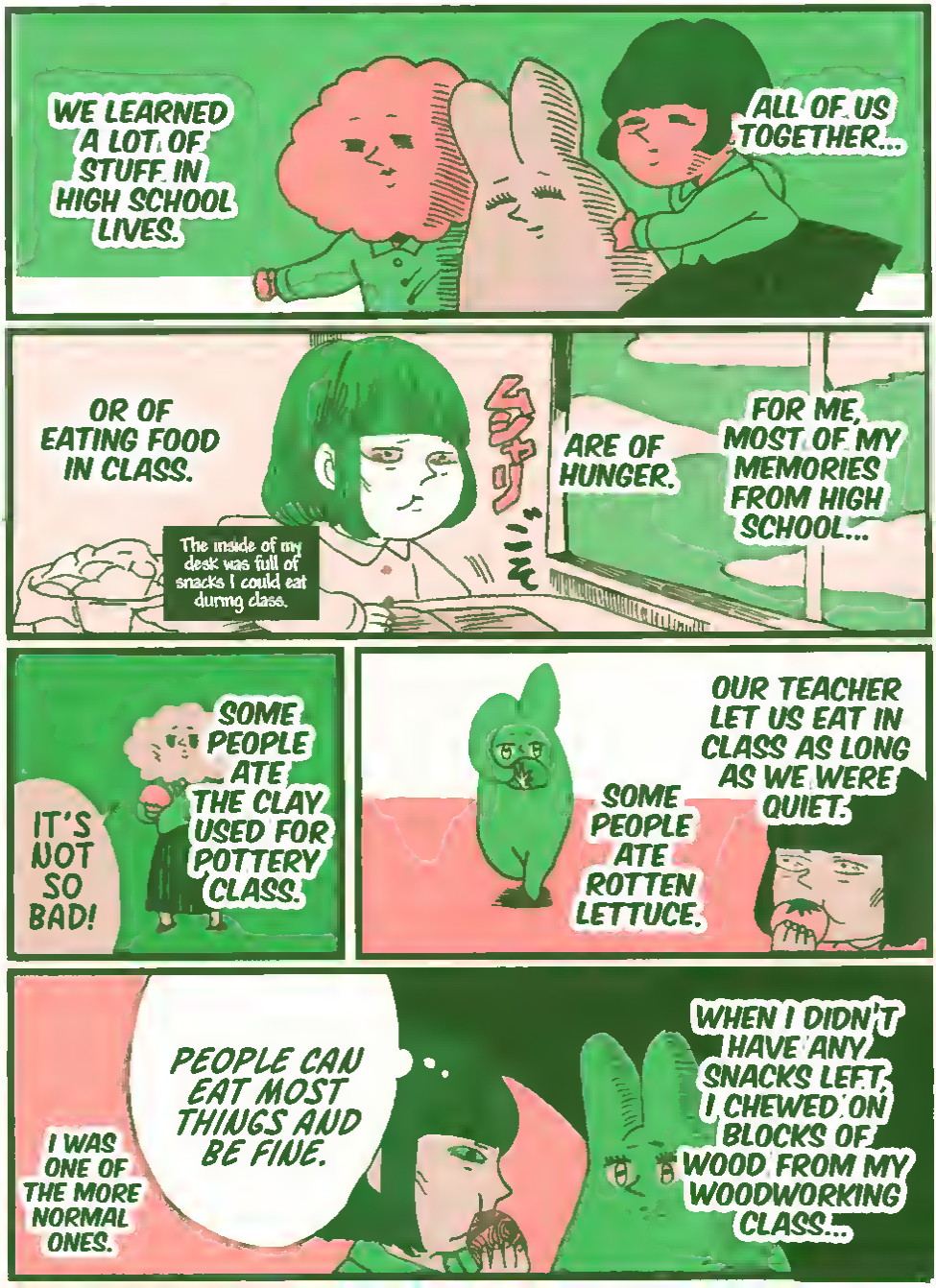
MY TIME IN MIDDLE SCHOOL


I'LL KILL YOU!
IF YOU GUYS EVER MAKE FUN OF ART,
MY ART TEACHER WAS INCREDIBLY SCARY.
IT'S DANGER-OUS!
TODAY, WE WILL USE THE ELECTRICAL SAW...
JUST PLACE YOU HANDS HERE AND MOVE THE BOARD AR--
SPLAT!
HE WAS A VERY CLUMSY PERSON.
HEY, PAY ATTENTION! THIS IS SERIOUS!!

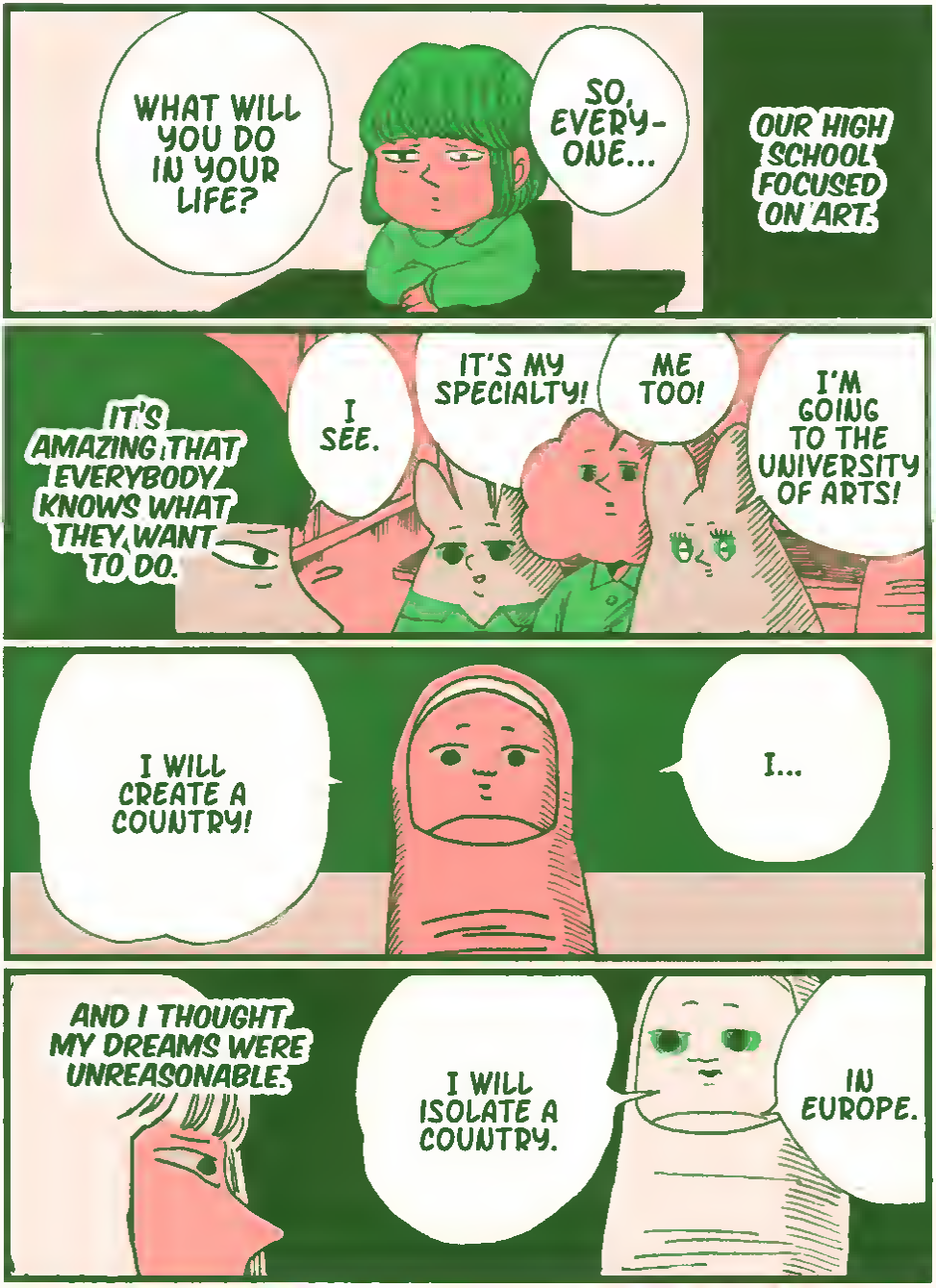
GIRLFRIEND


We can get sushi!
Let's all go out!
WHEN I FIRST MET MY FATHER'S GIRLFRIEND.
SHE WAS 15 YEARS YOUNGER THAN MY FATHER. SHE WAS A PRETTY WOMAN.
UH, SURE.
Ping!
TODAY WAS NICE, SHOULD WE TRADE CONTACT INFO?
WE EXCHANGED MAIL ADDRESSES BEFORE SAYING GOODBYE.
SHE'S ALREADY USING MY DAD'S LAST NAME?
AH... UMM... "HARADA"?
Harada ****
090
mayome@ttt
ゴトン
I SHOULD SEND HER A MES-SAGE.
ピロン

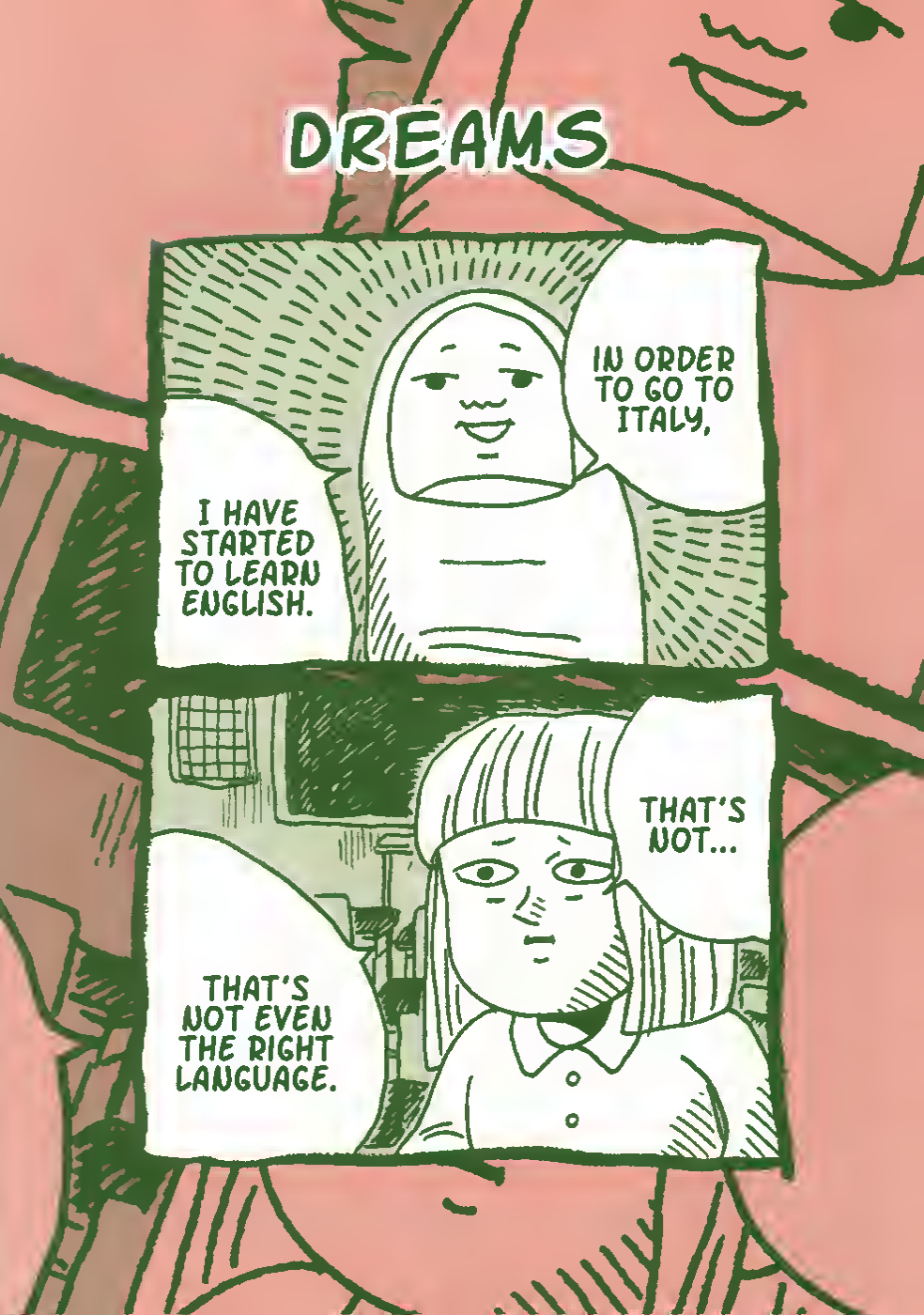
YOUTH


WE LEARNED A LOT OF STUFF IN HIGH SCHOOL LIVES.
ALL OF US TOGETHER...
OR OF EATING FOOD IN CLASS.
The inside of my desk was full of snacks I could eat during class.
ムシャリ ごそ
ARE OF HUNGER.
FOR ME, MOST OF MY MEMORIES FROM HIGH SCHOOL...
IT'S NOT SO BAD!
SOME PEOPLE ATE THE CLAY USED FOR POTTERY CLASS.
SOME PEOPLE ATE ROTTEN LETTUCE.
OUR TEACHER LET US EAT IN CLASS AS LONG AS WE WERE QUIET.
I WAS ONE OF THE MORE NORMAL ONES.
PEOPLE CAN EAT MOST THINGS AND BE FINE.
WHEN I DIDN'T HAVE ANY SNACKS LEFT, I CHEWED ON BLOCKS OF WOOD FROM MY WOODWORKING CLASS...

CAREER


WHAT WILL YOU DO IN YOUR LIFE?
SO, EVERY-ONE...
OUR HIGH SCHOOL FOCUSED ON ART.
IT'S AMAZING THAT EVERYBODY KNOWS WHAT THEY WANT TO DO.
I SEE.
IT'S MY SPECIALTY!
ME TOO!
I'M GOING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ARTS!
I WILL CREATE A COUNTRY!
I...
AND I THOUGHT MY DREAMS WERE UNREASONABLE.
I WILL ISOLATE A COUNTRY.
IN EUROPE.

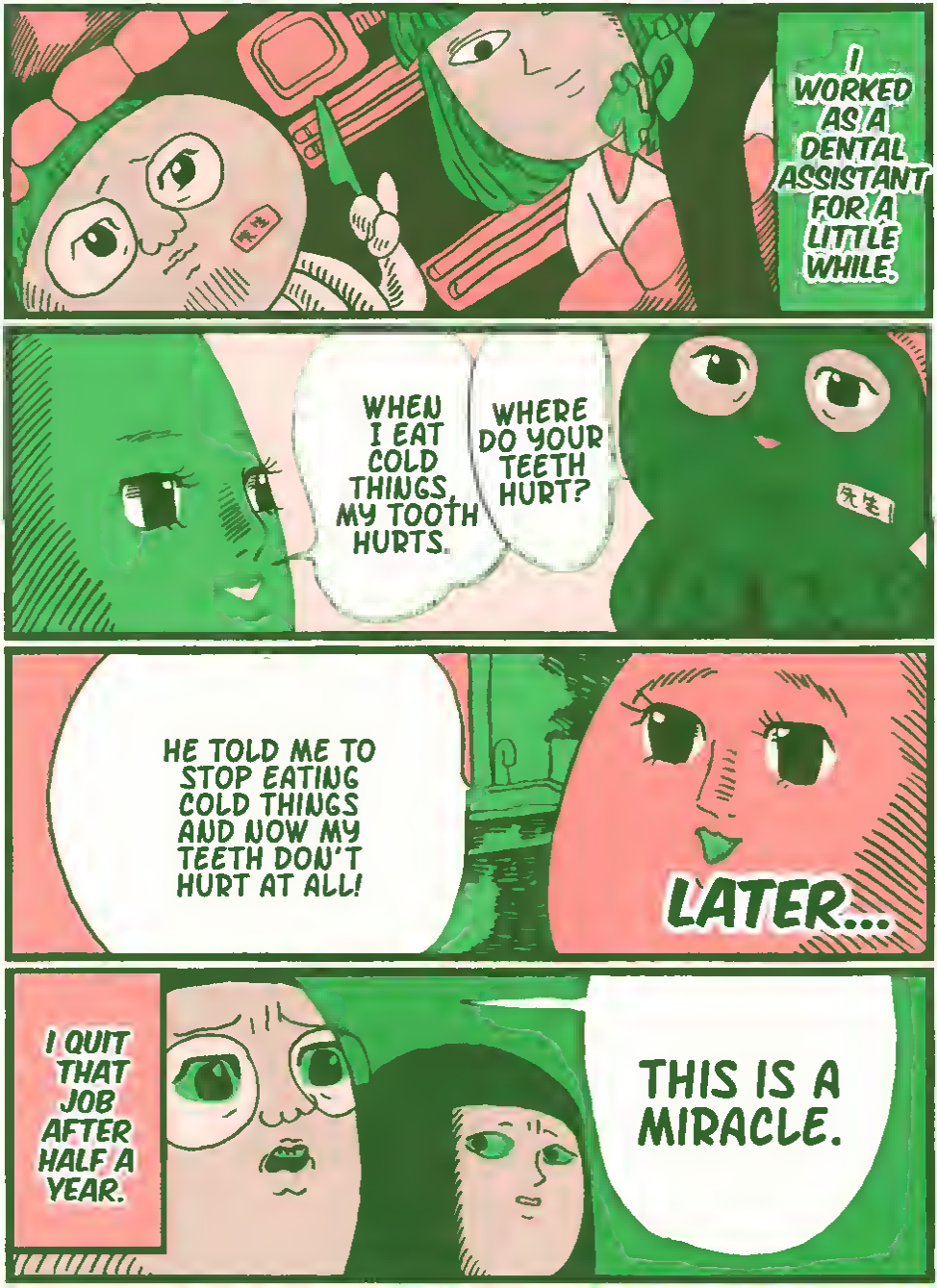
DREAMS


IN ORDER TO GO TO ITALY,
I HAVE STARTED TO LEARN ENGLISH.
THAT'S NOT...
THAT'S NOT EVEN THE RIGHT LANGUAGE.

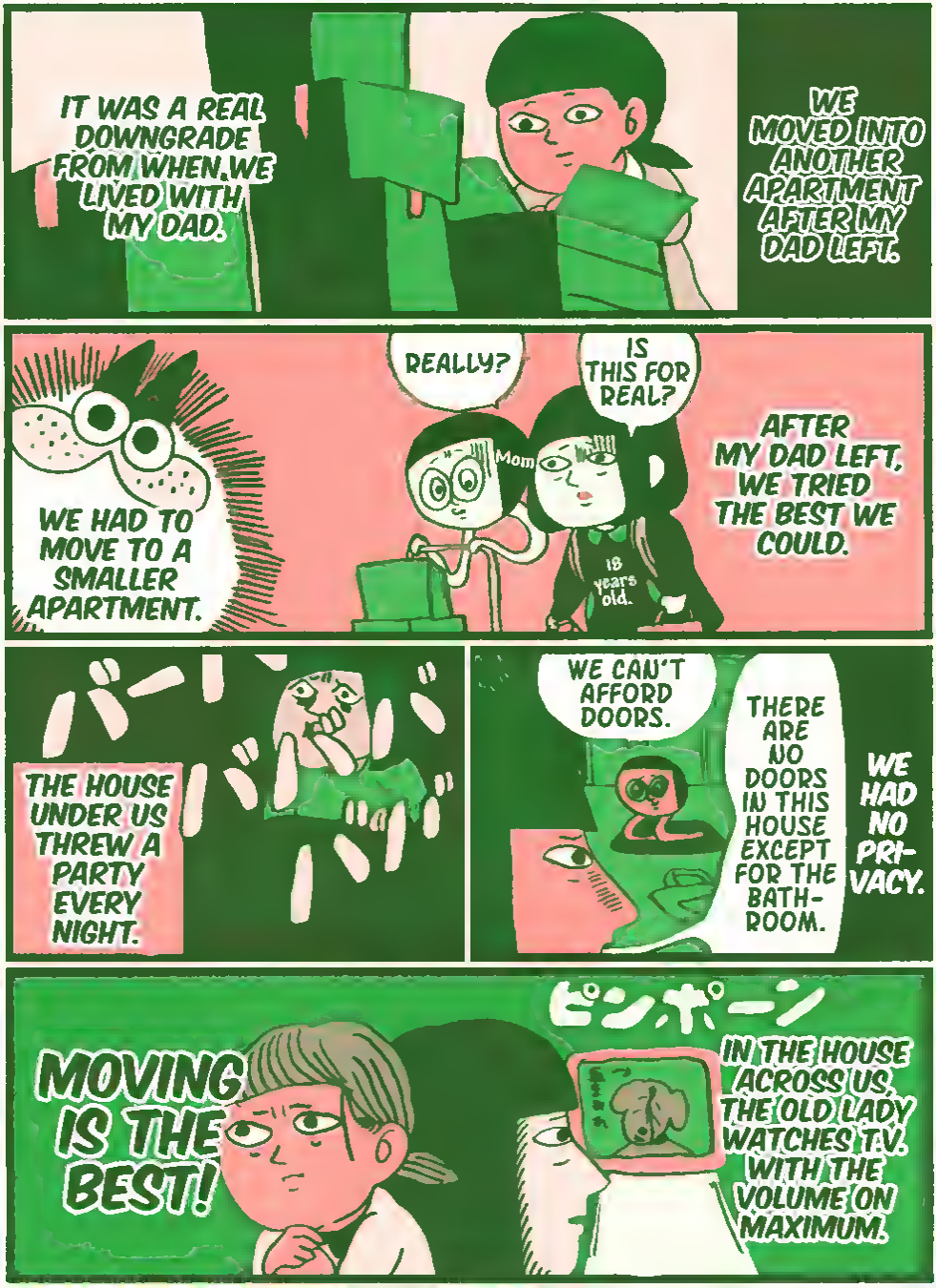
PAINTING

OKAY. TODAY LET'S PAINT A PICTURE OF SOMETHING YOU LIKE.
IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
AH, THAT'S WAY TOO MUCH PAINT.
I LIKE THE COLOR RED, SO I'M GOING TO PAINT SOMETHING RED.
WOW. THIS IS SUPER AWESOME, ALRIGHT!
WELL IT'S OKAY. I'LL JUST PAINT THE WHOLE SURFACE RED.
THE TEACHER WAS WORRIED, SO HE CALLED MY PARENTS.
I'LL WRITE A POEM ON IT SO IT LOOKS COOLER.
EVERYTHING CHANGES. EVERYBODY, EVERYBODY, CHANGES.
THE RED WILL LOOK LIKE EVENING SUN.

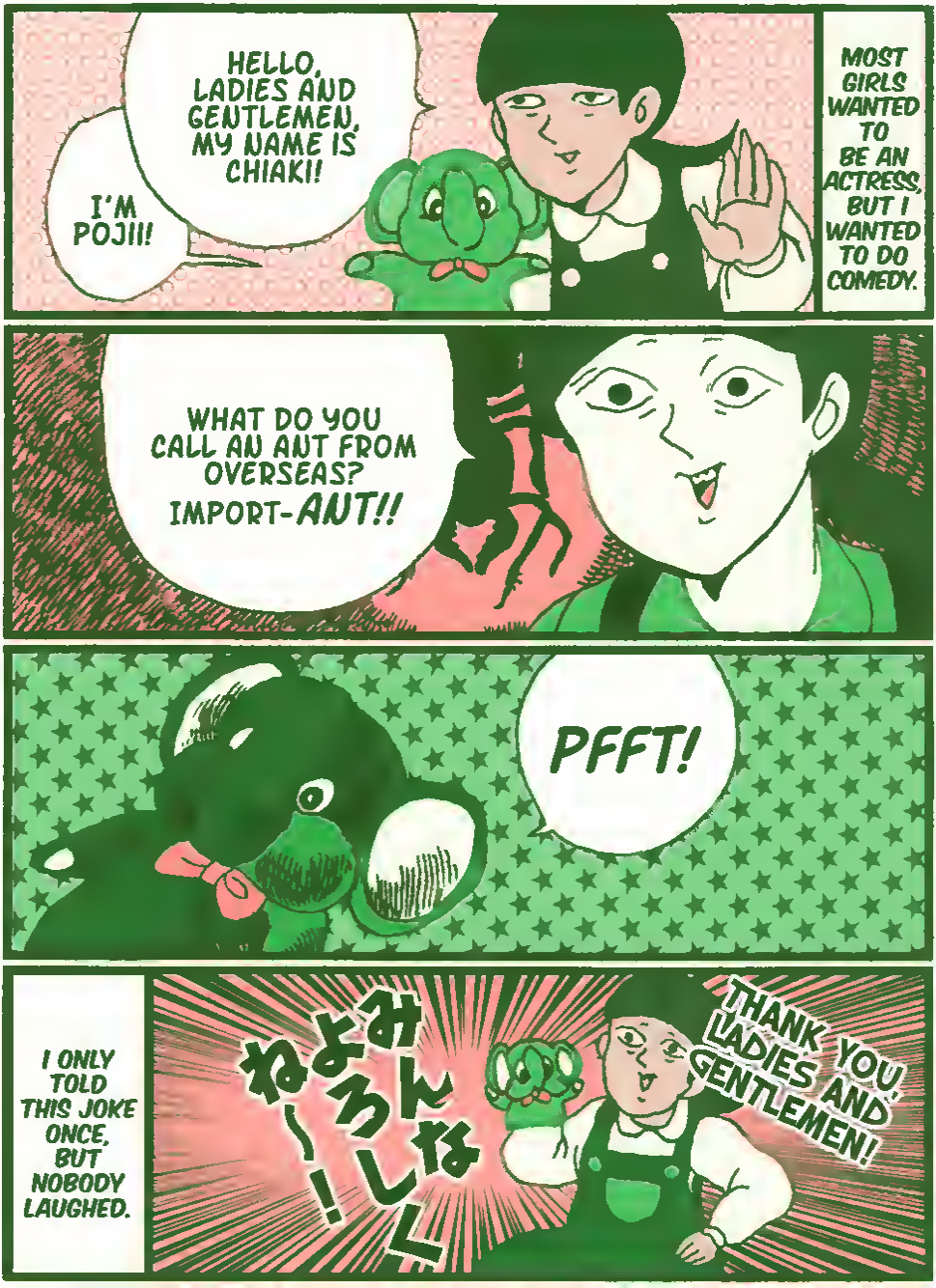
SYMPTOMS


I WORKED AS A DENTAL ASSISTANT FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
WHERE DO YOUR TEETH HURT?
WHEN I EAT COLD THINGS, MY TOOTH HURTS.
先生!
LATER...
HE TOLD ME TO STOP EATING COLD THINGS AND NOW MY TEETH DON'T HURT AT ALL!
THIS IS A MIRACLE.
I QUIT THAT JOB AFTER HALF A YEAR.

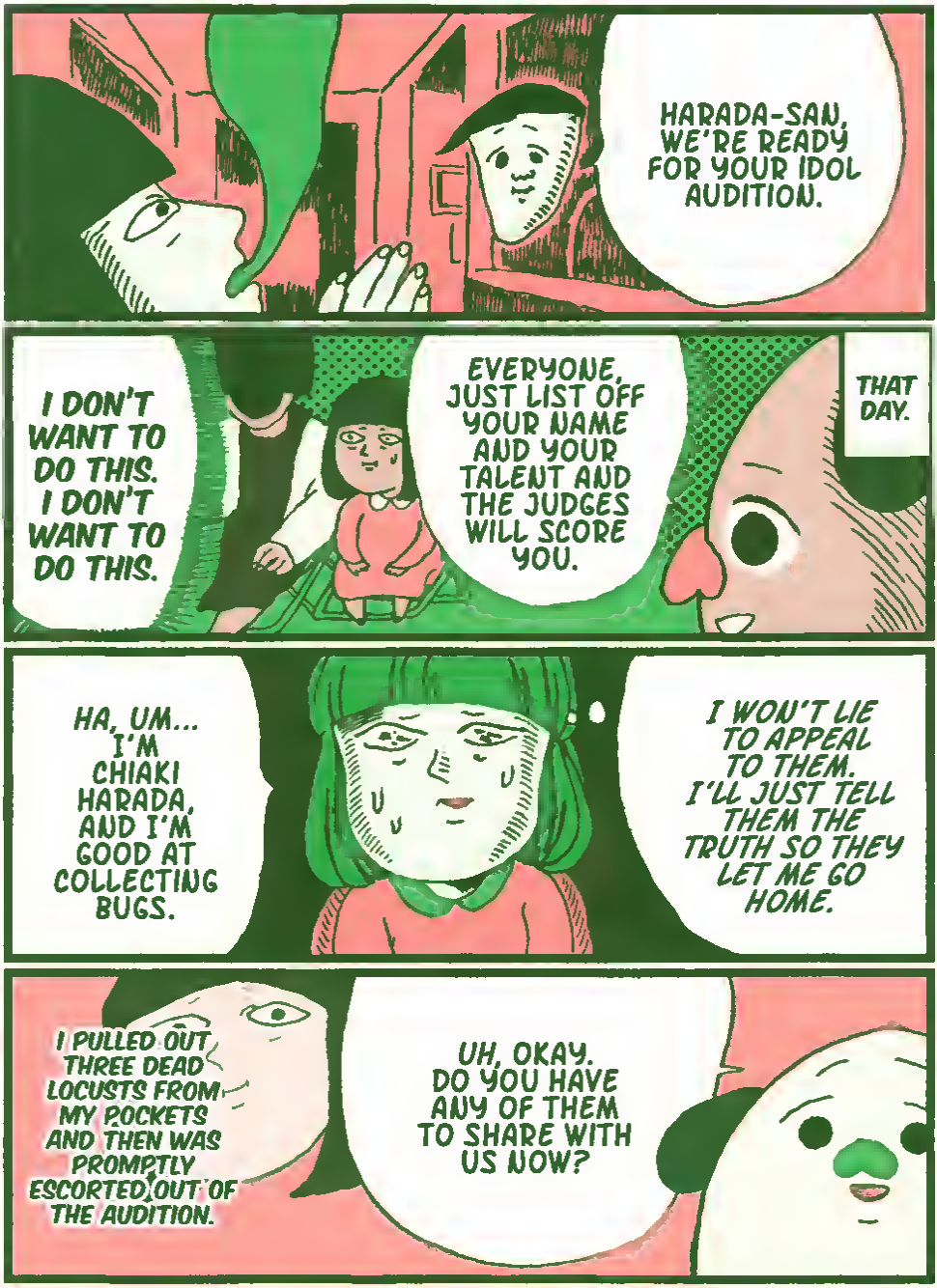
HOME


IT WAS A REAL DOWNGRADE FROM WHEN WE LIVED WITH MY DAD.
WE MOVED INTO ANOTHER APARTMENT AFTER MY DAD LEFT.
WE HAD TO MOVE TO A SMALLER APARTMENT.
REALLY?
IS THIS FOR REAL?
Mom
18 years old.
AFTER MY DAD LEFT, WE TRIED THE BEST WE COULD.
THE HOUSE UNDER US THREW A PARTY EVERY NIGHT.
WE CAN'T AFFORD DOORS.
THERE ARE NO DOORS IN THIS HOUSE EXCEPT FOR THE BATH-ROOM.
WE HAD NO PRI-VACY.
MOVING IS THE BEST!
ピンポーン
IN THE HOUSE ACROSS US, THE OLD LADY WATCHES T.V. WITH THE VOLUME ON MAXIMUM.

A JOKE I MADE WHEN I WANTED TO DO COMEDY


HELLO, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MY NAME IS CHIAKI!
I'M POJI!!
MOST GIRLS WANTED TO BE AN ACTRESS, BUT I WANTED TO DO COMEDY.
WHAT DO YOU CALL AN ANT FROM OVERSEAS?
IMPORT-ANT!!
PFFT!
I ONLY TOLD THIS JOKE ONCE, BUT NOBODY LAUGHED.
おんなよろしくねー!
THANK YOU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

WHEN I WANTED TO DO ACTING


HARADA-SAN, WE'RE READY FOR YOUR IDOL AUDITION.
I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS. I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS.
EVERYONE, JUST LIST OFF YOUR NAME AND YOUR TALENT AND THE JUDGES WILL SCORE YOU.
THAT DAY.
HA, UM... I'M CHIAKI HARADA, AND I'M GOOD AT COLLECTING BUGS.
I WON'T LIE TO APPEAL TO THEM. I'LL JUST TELL THEM THE TRUTH SO THEY LET ME GO HOME.
I PULLED OUT THREE DEAD LOCUSTS FROM MY POCKETS AND THEN WAS PROMPTLY ESCORTED OUT OF THE AUDITION.
UH, OKAY. DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THEM TO SHARE WITH US NOW?

DNA

Bzzz
ピロン
I WROTE A DOUJIN MANGA ABOUT A GUY WHO RUBS GIRL'S BUTTS.
WHY IS MY DAD TELLING ME THIS??
hey, I like rubbin butts, too!
when I rub the butt of my current wife, I make a sound like the chare in your manga, too!
My new wife loves it!
IS THIS SORT OF THING HEREDITARY?!